

# MISSOURI ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOPOROSIS PROGRAM



## Emergency Room Visits in Missouri among those with Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis/Related Diseases from 1993-2003

The emergency room (ER) visit rate for osteoarthritis (OA) or rheumatoid arthritis (RA)/related diseases has been relatively consistent over the eleven-year span. The OA rate ranged from 0.4-0.5 per 1,000 persons, and the RA/related diseases was 0.1 per 1,000 persons.

There was no difference between Whites and Black/African Americans (0.1) in the ER visit rate for RA/related diseases. However for ER visits due to OA, the rate was statistically higher among Black/African Americans (1.4) than Whites (0.3).

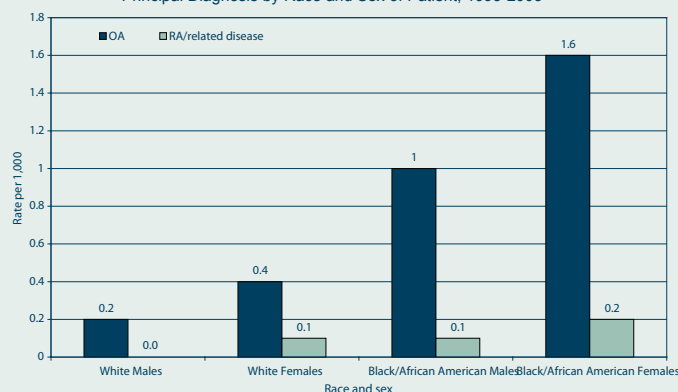
The rate of ER visits is statistically higher among females than males for both OA (0.5 versus 0.3) and RA/related diseases (0.1 versus 0.0).

The rate of ER visits for OA is statistically different across all groups based on race and sex. For RA/related diseases, the rate of ER visits is statistically highest among Black/African American females and statistically lowest among White males (FIGURE 1).

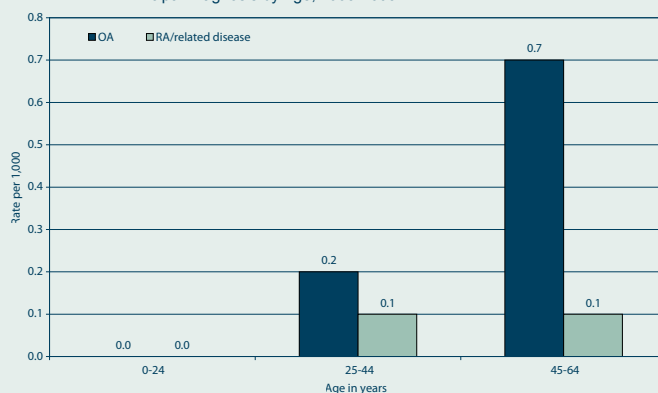
ER visits for OA and RA/related diseases primarily occur in the adult population 25 years and older. The rate of ER visits increases significantly between the younger adults (25-44 years) and the middle age adults (45-64 years). In contrast, the ER visit rate for RA/related diseases is the same for these two age groups (FIGURE 2).

The ER visit rate for OA was highest for Medicare patients (0.2). There was no distinguishable difference by pay source in the ER visit rate for RA/related diseases (FIGURE 3).

**Figure 1:** Age-adjusted Rate of ER Visits with OA or RA/Related Diseases as the Principal Diagnosis by Race and Sex of Patient, 1993-2003



**Figure 2:** Age-adjusted Rate of ER Visits with OA or RA/Related Diseases as the Principal Diagnosis by Age, 1993-2003



**Figure 3:** Age-adjusted Rate of ER Visits with OA or RA/Related Diseases as the Principal Diagnosis by Pay Source, 1993-2003

